

NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Lesley Malone
Public Information Officer
Department of Public Works
317-677-6469
lesley.malone@indy.gov

CITY SPONSORING FREE RAIN GARDEN AND NATIVE PLANTING LUNCH AND LEARNS

Learn About Reducing Storm Water Pollution and Neighborhood Flooding, Drainage Concerns

INDIANAPOLIS –The City of Indianapolis' Office of Sustainability will host three free *Lunch-and-Learn* sessions about the City's rain garden and native planting area program for site designers, landscapers, landscape architects, nursery managers, plant suppliers and interested residents. The sessions will be held at the Department of Code Enforcement's Vonnegut Conference Room at 1200 S. Madison Ave on December 4, 5, and 11 from 12pm to 1pm.

Rain gardens are one type of green infrastructure the City is implementing for improved water quality, cost savings, and enhanced quality of life. Rain gardens with native planting allow for more infiltration than turf grass lawns or conventional landscaping. Storm water travels through the plant roots and the soil, filtering out contaminants, bacteria and nutrients typically found in storm water runoff. They reduce the amount of storm water runoff and reduce drainage and flooding concerns in neighborhoods.

"It is important to encourage residents to use storm water as a valuable natural resource instead of only managing it as a pollution source," said Ashlee Kilpatrick, Office of Sustainability Project Manager. "These *Lunch-and-Learn* sessions will give key industry stakeholders as well as residents an opportunity to learn more about the program and how they can get involved."

Lunch-and-Learn sessions require pre-registration to attend. Attendees will learn about water quality concerns in Marion County, how the rain garden and native planting area program works, how to register projects with the city and how a rain garden can benefit your business. Lunch will be provided for all registrants. Sign up to attend at the SustainIndy homepage or at <http://tinyurl.com/RainGardenLunch>.

For more information on the rain garden and native planting area program and other green infrastructure projects visit www.indy.gov/sustainindy or follow us on Twitter at @sustainindy.

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